U.S. Serial No. 09/462,846

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Amended) A *Bacillus subtilis* having a mutation or deletion of part or all of the gene encoding cysteine protease-1 CP1, wherein said gene encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and said mutation or deletion results in the inactivation of the CP1 proteolytic activity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 1, wherein said *Bacillus subtilis* is capable of expressing a heterologous protein.

7. (Previously Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 6, wherein said heterologous protein is selected from the group consisting of hormones, enzymes, growth factors, and cytokines.

8. (Previously Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 7 wherein said heterologous protein is an enzyme.

9. (Previously Amended) The *Bacillus subtilis* of Claim 8 wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of proteases, carbohydrases, lipases, isomerases, racemases, epimerases, tautomerases, mutases, transferases, kinases and phosphatases.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Amended) A method for the production of a heterologous protein in a transformed *Bacillus subtilis* host cell comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a *Bacillus subtilis* host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding said heterologous protein wherein said host cell contains a mutation or deletion in the gene encoding *B. subtilis* cysteine protease-1, wherein said gene encoding cysteine protease-1 encodes the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, and said mutation or deletion results in the inactivation of the cysteine protease-1 proteolytic activity; and

(b) growing said *Bacillus subtilis* host cell under conditions suitable for the expression of said heterologous protein.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 13, wherein said gene encoding cysteine protease-1 comprises the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)